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SECRET FREEDOM
PART 2 OF 4

ISSUE 42

SEGA®

SONIC UNIVERSE™

WHEN SONIC IS AWAY...

...THEY MAKE EVIL PAY.

UNSUNG HEROES

Starring:
SILVER the HEDGEHOG · ELIAS ACORN · KING IXIS NAUGUS
and GEOFFREY St. JOHN as the IXIS APPRENTICE

Tracy Yardley! + Steve T.

Welcome to the planet Mobius - - a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Silver the Hedgehog has joined a secret team of freedom fighters to undermine the evil King Ixis Naugus and save the future!

SONIC UNIVERSE™

PREVIOUSLY...

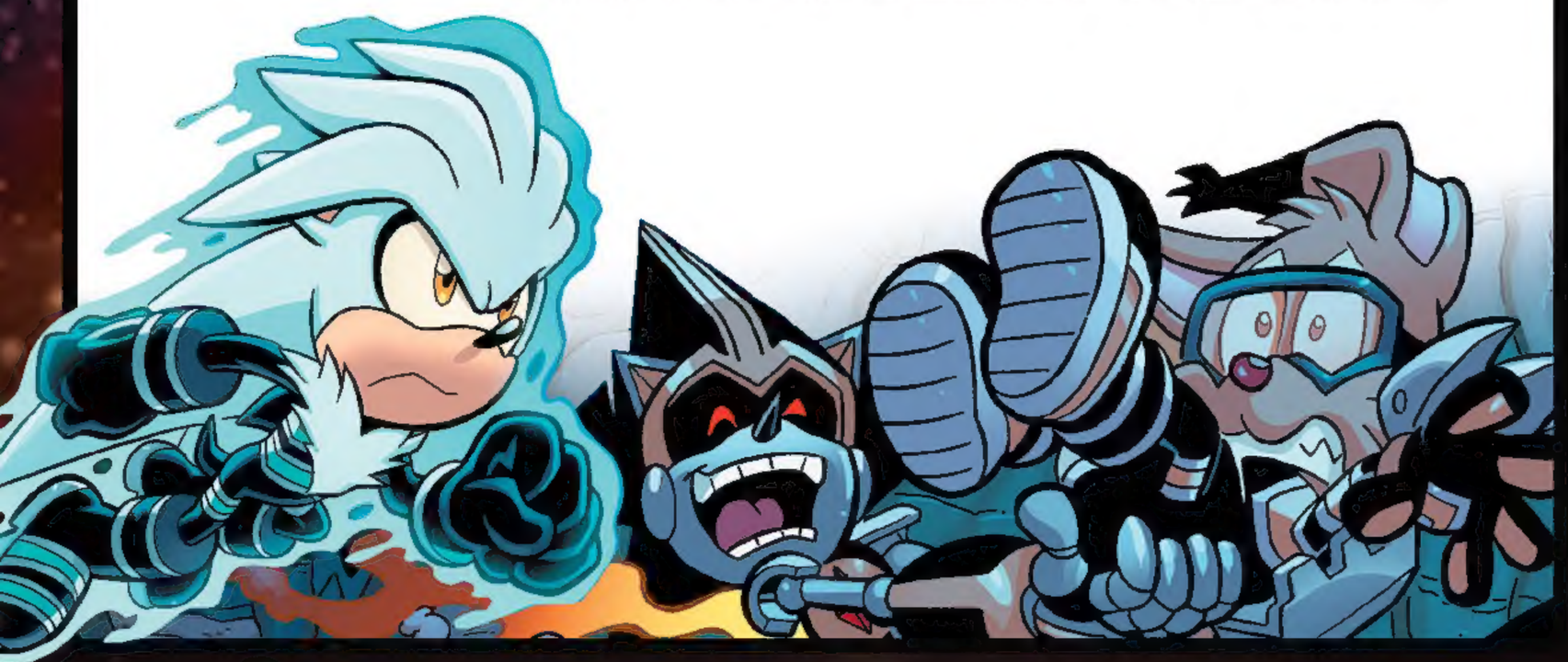
The city of New Mobotropolis is under SIEGE!

Sonic the Hedgehog's home city continues to reel following the devastating attacks of Dr. Eggman. These attacks have lead to the destruction of the city's heroes, the Freedom Fighters.

To make matters worse, the city has also been attacked from within! The evil Wizard Ixis Naugus has usurped the crown of Acorn, and driven the former king Elias Acorn and his family into exile! King Naugus has used his dark magic to turn the tide of public opinion in his favor, but such an unstable and evil ruler has put the entire kingdom and its people in jeopardy.

But in the shadows a new team of Secret Freedom Fighters have formed to do the work that the public heroes can't do – put an end to Naugus's rule! To take down the brutal tyrant, the SFF have turned to tracking down his apprentice, Geoffrey St. John, as he traveled abroad for reasons unknown. Geoffrey was confronted by Silver's squad while extracting a mysterious artifact from ancient ruins. While the slippery skunk managed to escape, he was also tagged with a tracking device.

Silver, Shard and Larry Lynx are battling Geoffrey, while Elias Acorn, Leeta and Lyco are charged with tracking Naugus and confronting the terror BELOW THE CITY...



WHO'S WHO

ELIAS ACORN
DEPOSED KING --CALL SIGN "KING"

LYCO WOLF
WOLF PACK TWIN --CALL SIGN "QUEEN OF HEARTS"

LEETA WOLF
WOLF PACK TWIN --CALL SIGN "QUEEN OF DIAMONDS"

KING NAUGUS
CONNIVING IXIS WIZARD

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"IT'S JUST BEFORE DAWN, AND THE TARGET IS ON THE MOVE."

"HE'S BEEN HEADING FOR THE SAME POINT IN THE CITY AT THE SAME TIME FOR DAYS NOW-- LIKE CLOCKWORK."

UP EARLY, YOUR MAJESTY?

JUST LOOKING AFTER THAT NASTY HOLE IN THE GROUND THAT THE ARMADA LEFT US.

DON'T YOU WORRY OVER IT.

KING IXIS NAUGUS (EVIL?) WIZARD

UNSUNG HEROES PART 2: THE TERROR BELOW

IAN FLYNN : writer / TRACY YARDLEY! : pencils / JIM AMASH : inks / JACK MORELLI : letters / STEVE DOWNER : colors
YARDLEY! & DOWNER : cover / Variant cover art provided by SEGA / VINCENT LOVALLO : Assistant Editor
PAUL KAMINSKI : Editor/Executive Director of Editorial / VICTOR GORELICK : Editor-in-Chief / MIKE PELLERITO : President
Special thanks to ANTHONY GACCIONE & CINDY CHAU at Sega Licensing

"'THE PIT' IS WHERE CASTLE ACORN ONCE STOOD."

"THE BATTLE BIRD ARMADA INVADED AND BLASTED A HOLE THAT'S WHO KNOWS *HOW* DEEP."*

"WITHOUT NICOLE TO CONTROL THEM, THE NANITES COULD ONLY REBUILD SO FAR. SHE WOULD'VE HAD THE CASTLE REBUILT IN HOURS."

*BABYLON RISING, S.U. #33-36

"WHY IS NAUGUS SO INTERESTED IN A HOLE IN THE GROUND?"

LEETA WOLF
CALL SIGN "QUEEN OF DIAMONDS"
WOLF PACK TWIN

"THAT'S WHAT MY TEAM HAS BEEN SENT TO FIND OUT."

OKAY, WE'RE CLEAR.

ELIAS ACORN
CALL SIGN "KING"
DEPOSED KING

LYCO WOLF
CALL SIGN "QUEEN OF HEARTS"
WOLF PACK TWIN

"THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I REJECTED BEING KING. HOW IRONIC IT IS, THEN, THAT I'M SKIRTING THE EDGE OF THE LAW TO FIGHT AND GET IT BACK."

WE DON'T KNOW HOW LONG WE'LL BE CLEAR. WE NEED TO MOVE IN *NOW*.

THERE'S NO MORE COVER BETWEEN US AND THE TARGET. JUST BE READY TO SPRINT!

"DIRECTOR HARVEY WHO PUT TOGETHER THE SECRET FREEDOM FIGHTERS. HE CHOSE THE MEMBERS WITH HIS EXPERIENCE AS A SPY IN MIND, BUT...

"...NONE OF THEM WOULD'VE BEEN MY FIRST CHOICE--OR SECOND, OR EVEN THIRD. BUT I HAVE TO PLAY THE HAND I'M DEALT."

NOW!
OH MAN OH MAN OH MAN...
ACTIVATE WING-SUITS!
I HATE HEIGHTS!
HATE-HATE HATE-HATE HATE HEIGHTS...

eh?

hmm... THE QUICKSTER IS AWAY, AND THE WALRUS IS TOO FAT TO BE STEALTHY.

PERHAPS IT WAS JUST THE WIND. OR ONE OF YOU. NEVER GIVE ME A MOMENT'S PEACE...

DON'T PLAY COY-- OF COURSE I MEAN YOU!

THAT'S NO EXCUSE.

SILENCE! ALL OF YOU!

WE'RE CLEAR.

WAS HE TALKING TO US?

I DON'T *THINK* SO. IF HE KNEW WE WERE HERE, WHY DIDN'T HE ATTACK?

I DON'T KNOW. WHO ELSE COULD HE BE TALKING TO?

CAN YOU CUT THE STUPID GOSSIP?

ONCE I GET THIS EXPLOSIVE SET TO SECURE OUR EXIT, WE'LL...

EXCUSE ME, *KING*, BUT HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A SECRET AGENT?

WHAT? I'VE NEVER BEEN... WELL, NOT LIKE THIS, BUT...

EXACTLY! YOU DISMISSED US ON DAY ONE WHEN YOU HAVE NO EXPERIENCE OF YOUR OWN!*

BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE FIGHTING FOR *OUR* KINGDOM HERE!

*GET THE FULL SCOOP IN THE UP-COMING ***STH*** #240!

RIGHT! WE WANTED TO DO MORE FOR THE COMMON GOOD...

...AND LEAPT AT THE CHANCE WHEN WE RECEIVED A REQUEST FOR HELP.

"BUT WE RECEIVED A WELCOME EVEN LESS WARM THAN YOURS!"

BUT...WE THOUGHT YOU SENT A REQUEST FOR HELP?

BAH!

I DO NOT NEED YOU TO...

I'LL REMIND HIS MAJESTY-- *AGAIN*-- HE SITS ON THE *COUNCIL*?

...WE DO NOT NEED YOU.

MY POWER ALONE IS ENOUGH... AND WE MUST PUT UP WITH TEAM FREEDOM'S BUMBLING.

THE CITY'S CITIZENS WILL CARE FOR THEM-SELVES, THANK YOU. BEGONE.

BUT--!

SINCE WE ARE ABOUT TO TAKE A RECESS ANYWAY, I'LL SHOW THE LADIES OUT.

THIS WAY, PLEASE. QUICKLY. AND MAKE SURE WE'RE NOT BEING FOLLOWED.

WELCOME TO NEW MOBOTROPOLIS, LADIES. I AM DIRECTOR HARVEY WHO. I AM THE ONE WHO SENT FOR YOU... AND I APOLOGIZE FOR THE CONFUSION.

BUT THE GRAND CHIEF SAID WE WERE TO BE SERVING THE KING?

I'VE GOT TO RETURN TO MY DUTIES.

THEY'RE ALL YOURS, HARVEY.

AND YOU ARE. THE *TRUE* KING STEPPED DOWN TO PRESERVE THE PEACE DURING THESE TRYING TIMES. BUT THE ACTING KING IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED.

SONIC'S TEAM FIGHTERS IS ABROAD FIGHTING DR. EGGMAN. ROTOR'S TEAM FREEDOM IS BOUND BY LAW AND LOYALTY.

I'M PUTTING TOGETHER A TEAM TO PROTECT THE CITY IN WAYS THE OTHER TWO TEAMS CANNOT.

HEROES WITH UNTAPPED POTENTIAL WHO CAN AVOID THE SPOTLIGHT AND STILL KEEP US SAFE.

WILL YOU HELP ME?

THAT'S NOT WHAT WE THOUGHT WE WERE SIGNING UP FOR...

AND WE'RE USED TO THE DIRECT APPROACH....

BUT NAUGUS IS A THREAT THAT MUST BE DEFEATED.

YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A COUPLE OF SECRET AGENTS, DIRECTOR WHO.

EXCELLENT.

I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU GIRLS.

AND WE GOT YOU OUT OF A FERAL FOREST, DIDN'T WE?

THE DIRECTOR THOUGHT THE TEAM PERFORMED WELL ON OUR FIRST MISSION.*

*SUBSCRIBE TO SONIC THE HEDGEHOG AND SEE FOR YOURSELF IN STH#239-240 COMING SOON!

BUT IF YOU CAN'T DECIDE WHETHER THIS TEAM IS WORTH IT OR NOT, THEN WE CAN'T TRUST YOU TO LEAD US.

SET THE BOMB. *WE'LL* HANDLE THE REST.

THIS TUNNEL GOES ON FOREVER. WE MUST BE HALF-WAY ACROSS THE CITY BY NOW.

AND GIVEN OUR DIRECTION, I'D SAY THAT WE'RE...

...DIRECTLY UNDER THE *ROYAL MILITARY HQ.* IS HE PLANNING ON ATTACKING THE COUNCIL FROM BELOW?

IF SO, WHY MAKE SUCH A BIG, ORNATE ROOM?

AND WHAT'S WITH ALL THE MAGIC RUNES?

HRRK... HRPH...

GIVE IN, ALREADY! YOUR FIGHT IS FUTILE.

NO...MY BODY... YOU'RE JUST GHOSTS...

GHOSTS THAT WILL HAUNT YOU TO YOUR END. THE SOONER THAT COMES, THE SOONER YOU'LL BE RELEASED!

BEGONE! I HAVE WORK TO DO.

HAHAHA! LOOK AT HIM STRUGGLE!

RARGH!! VILLAINS! PARA-SITES!

AT THE VERY LEAST YOU CAN STOP TRYING TO MAINTAIN THIS FORM. NOBODY CAN SEE YOU HERE. LET LOOSE A LITTLE!

IF... IT... WILL... QUIET... YOU...

RRAAAUGH!

AAHHH!!

WHO'S THERE?!

MEANWHILE...

...AND WHERE DO *THEY* GET THE GALL TO TELL *ME* HOW TO GO ABOUT SAVING *MY* KINGDOM...

...BUT YOU SHOULDN'T BE WASTING YOUR ENERGY DOING THIS, NOT WHEN IT CLEARLY JEOPARDIZES THE MISSION!

AND WHERE DO *I* GET TO JUDGE *ANYONE*, GIVEN HOW I'VE HANDLED THINGS IN THE PAST? I SHOULD FOLLOW MY OWN ADVICE AND STOP PICKING FIGHTS WITH MY OWN TEAM!

I'LL LINK BACK UP WITH THE TWINS. MAYBE I CAN APOLOGIZE AND GET US ALL FOCUSED ON THE MISSION BEFORE SOMETHING--

AAAHHH!!

WHOOSH

RUMBLE

KRAK

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

HE'S TURNING THE PLACE INTO A MAZE TO TRAP US. CLEVER.

...AND IT'S WORKING.

CRUD.

KING! WE'VE GOT TROUBLE! I BLEW OUR COVER, AND--!

WHAT THE--?! THERE WASN'T A BRANCHING PATH HERE BEFORE!

HE'S RE-SHAPING THE CAVE TO TRAP US AND TO HIDE WHAT-EVER HE'S DOING DOWN HERE!

I'VE BEEN MARKING THE RIGHT WAY--

OKAY... NEW PLAN.

SPLIT UP! STICK TO ONE WALL AND DOUBLE-BACK IF YOU HIT A DEAD END!

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO SAY "DEAD END"?

UHH... ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

PANT! PANT! PANT!

YOU CANNOT HIDE, INTRUDERS! THERE IS NO ESCAPE! YOU WILL TAKE MY SECRET TO YOUR *GRAVES!*

WHO ARE YOU? **WHERE** ARE YOU?!

...WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED TO HIM?!

NO!

KEEP IT TOGETHER! JUST DOUBLE-BACK AND TAKE LYCO'S TUNNEL. IF THAT'S WRONG, WE'LL TAKE ELIAS'S AND--

THERE YOU ARE!

AAAHH!

POK

WHO DARES?!

?

NICE TRY, BUTTER-FINGERS.

FLASH-BANG! TAKE COVER!

BUT... HOW...?!

RAARRRHHGH!!

BLAM

THIS WAY!

I FOUND SOME OF MY MARKS AT THE END OF THIS ROUTE./

JUST A FEW MORE METERS AND WE SHOULD BE HOME FR--

"DEAD END"... "HOME FREE"... YOU'RE A BIGGER JINX THAN JOKER!

MAN, I HOPE THEIR MISSION IS GOING BETTER THAN OURS!*

*SEE FOR YOURSELF-- LAST ISSUE.

THERE'S OUR EXIT! WING-SUITS THE SECOND YOU'RE CLEAR!

RARGH!! NO ESCAPE!

DEET

BLAM

DON'T THINK ABOUT THE HEIGHTS!

I DON'T CARE RIGHT NOW!

NO ESCAPE!

HURH-HURH-HURH...

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU WERE, INTERLOPERS... BUT YOU WON'T BOTHER ME AGAIN.

IS THIS THE **END** OF THE SECRET FREEDOM FIGHTERS? **ALREADY?!** AND WHAT IS NAUGUS PREPARING UNDER THE CITY? SURE LOOKS DANGEROUS! COME BACK NEXT TIME FOR ALL THE ANSWERS! UNTIL THEN, ENJOY **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG**, THE **SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE**, AND THE ENTIRE **SONIC GRAPHIC NOVEL** LIBRARY!

the SONIC SPIN

he's giving you editorial commentary, and taking away your name!

3 TEAMS. 2 TITLES. 1 SECRET.

In the aftermath of the destruction of the Knothole Freedom Fighters, the heroes have split into two teams: Team Freedom and Team Fighters. But Sonic and his pals are public heroes – they can't just ignore the rule of law like Geoffrey St. Jerk, who was tried for treason for doing just that back in STH#233. But Naugus is evil, he's gotta go! So what's the third option?

That's where Harvey Who and his Secret Freedom Fighters come into play – and their formation has been brewing since that very Sonic the Hedgehog #233 issue (don't believe me? download it today on the Sonic App and read all about it! plugplugplug). In choosing this team, a lot of factors came into play. These heroes needed to be outcasts, for one. Desperate characters looking to do the right thing, but who are also motivated to do this for their own, personal reasons.

To find out more about what those reasons are – make sure you pick up issues of Sonic the Hedgehog throughout the summer, as each issue features one more piece to the Secret Freedom Fighters origin puzzle! And make sure you come on back here next month as "Secret Freedom" reaches its fever pitch! And did I mention Sonic Universe vol 3 Graphic Novel will be available NEXT MONTH?! Check out a special sneak peek below!

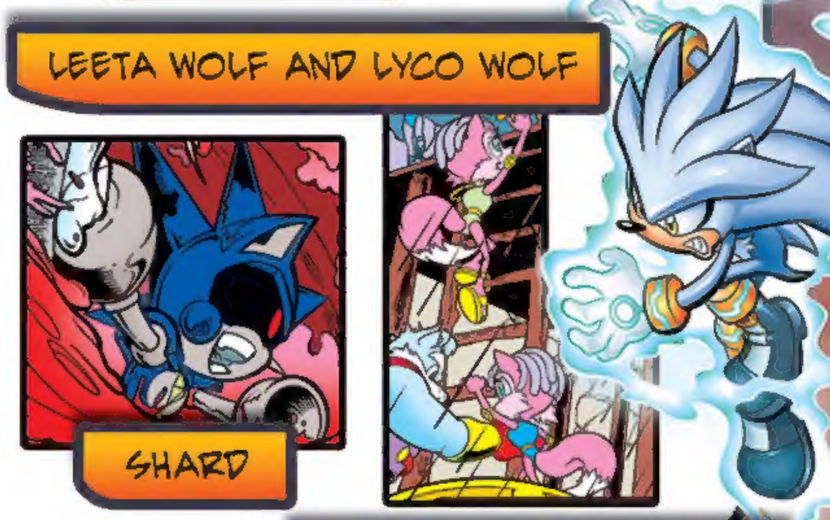
BE SURE TO PICK UP THIS ISSUE'S AWESOME, COMIC SHOP EXCLUSIVE, SEGA VARIANT COVER!

SEE YA NEXT MONTH! **- Paul**

ROLL CALL! TAKE A LOOK AT THE SECRET FREEDOM FIGHTERS BEFORE THEY WERE A TEAM!

ELIAS ACORN

LARRY LYNX


LEETA WOLF AND LYCO WOLF

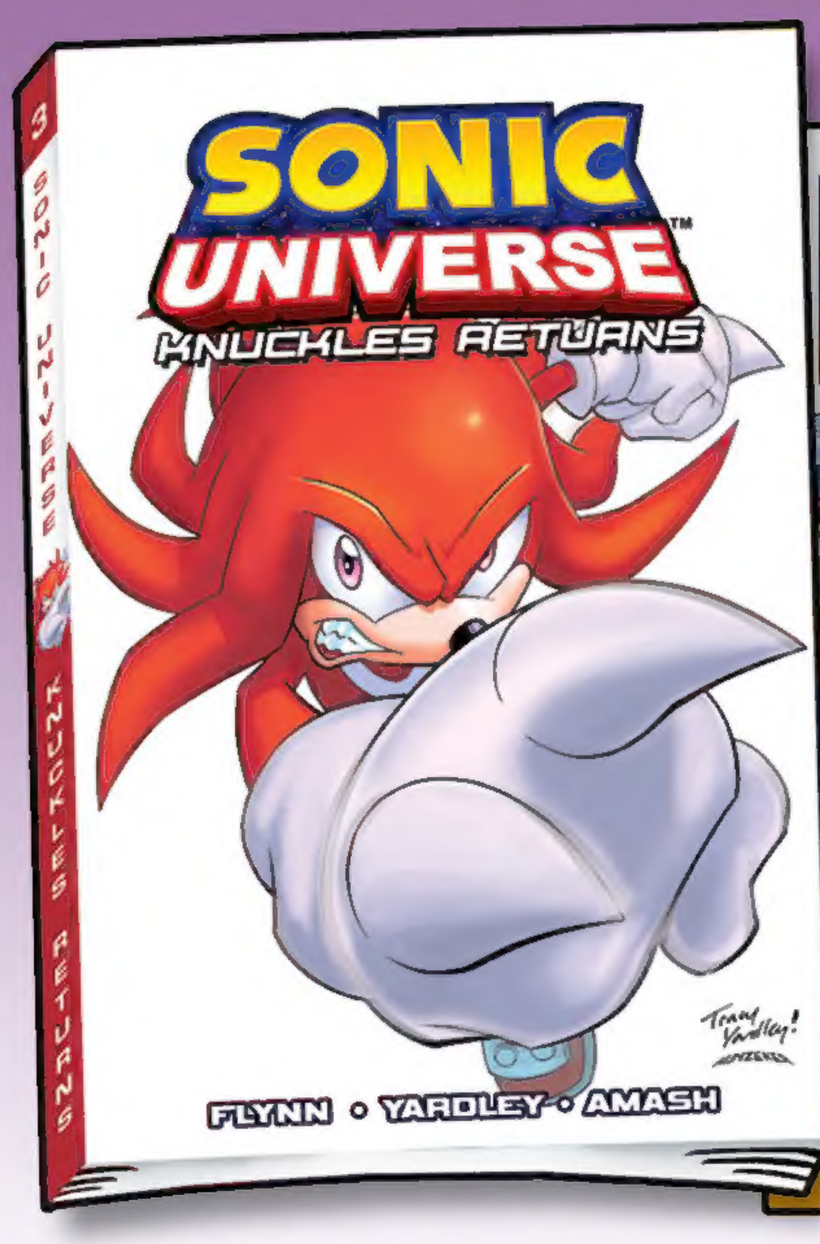
SHARD

SILVER THE HEDGEHOG

EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW:

SONIC UNIVERSE VOL.3 GRAPHIC NOVEL

AWESOME SPECIAL FEATURES!



THE SERVERS ARE THE SEVEN CHAOS...
THE SERVANTS ARE THE SEVEN CHAOS...
CHAOS IS POWER, ENRICHED BY THE HEART...
CHAOS IS POWER, CONTROLLED BY MY WILL...
THE CONTROLLER EXISTS TO UNIFY THE CHAOS!
THE CONTROLLER EXISTS TO ENSLAVE THE CHAOS!

KNUCKLES VS. DR. FINITEVUS!

THE ENTIRE 3RD SU ARC COLLECTED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN GRAPHIC NOVEL!

COMING AUGUST 2012!

MY SONIC UNIVERSE™ FAN ART

Nestor V. sent to
sonic@archiecomics.com

Spencer P.
from Canada

Alexandria B. sent to
sonic@archiecomics.com

Jordan W.
from Arizona

HEY, KIDS!

LOVE "OFF PANEL"?
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OFF PANEL

THE SECRET FREEDOM FIGHTERS!

DIRECTOR WHO, I HAVE A QUESTION. WHY DID YOU GIVE US CODENAMES BASED ON CARDS?
BECAUSE WHEN I SEND YOU INTO A MISSION, I WANT YOU PLAYING WITH A STACKED DECK.
I DON'T THINK HE'S PLAYING WITH A FULL DECK.
BA-DUM TISH!
APPLAUSE!
OFF-PANEL UNDER CONSTRUCTION!
PUNS AT WORK!
MAYBE WE SHOULD SHUFFLE THE LEADERSHIP?

SCRIPT: IAN FLYNN PENCILS: JONATHAN GRAY INKS: GARY MARTIN COLORS: ALEAH BAKER

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COMING SOON!

NEXT ISSUE: 43

UNSUNG HEROES PART III

IT'S COVERT CHAOS FOR SILVER'S SQUAD AS KING NAUGUS'S EVIL PLAN IS REVEALED IN...

SECRET FREEDOM

PART 3 (of 4)

ON SALE THE WEEK OF 08/21/12!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG: 239

TEAM FIGHTERS VS. MECHA SALLY!

ELIAS IS IN TROUBLE! SONIC AND HIS SQUAD WILL HAVE TO BE QUICK IN...

"HEROES PART I"

ON SALE THE WEEK OF 08/07/12

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'
I've been a long time reader, and have written in a few times, but I just want to say what an excellent job everyone on the Sonic titles does every time.

Aww, shucks, you are too kind!

Also I've been reading all of my Sonic and Sonic Universe issues over again from the start (In which I now own all but 2). I am currently on issue 209 of the regular comic, and 13 of Sonic Universe.

Keep on reading! It only gets better!

I have one question for you now regarding Thrash the Tasmanian Devil from the Downunda Freedom Fighters. I'm wondering if we are going to see him pop up again in a Sonic Universe arc? When we last saw him (in Sonic Universe # 12) he said that he would be picking up his old quest after Knuckles asked him what he was to do next. I consider myself a huge fan of the D.F.F team and I'd like to see more of all of them.

Thrash will definitely be back again real soon! Keep on reading to find out!

Keep up the excellent work with both Sonic and Sonic Universe; they're both comics I really anticipate every month.

Sincerely,
Robert S. G.
from New Hampshire

Thanks for writing in, Robert!

And that's all the room we have!

SEE Y'ALL NEXT MONTH!

SECRET FREEDOM FIGHTER CHECKLIST:

COLLECT THE COMPLETE DEBUT OF THE NEWEST MOBIAN FIGHTING FORCE!

☑ SONIC #238
SFF PRELUDE pt1

☐ SONIC #239
SFF PRELUDE pt2

☐ SONIC #240
SFF PRELUDE pt3

☐ SONIC #241
SFF EPILOGUE

☑ SU #41
SECRET FREEDOM pt1

☑ SU #42
SECRET FREEDOM pt2

☐ SU #43
SECRET FREEDOM pt3

☐ SU #44
SECRET FREEDOM pt4

IT'S YOUR SONIC UNIVERSE!

We want <u>your</u> input! Write & tell us what you're likin', lovin', or what's leaving you in the dust! Remember, include "My Sonic Universe" in the subject line on your letter or e-mail! It's your Sonic Universe, after all, so drop us a line!